

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /079 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9774

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS DUBLIN 2531

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EC, EI

SUBJECT: PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN CONVENTION

1. THE ANNUAL CONVENTION (ARD FHEIS) OF THE PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN (OCT 22-24) WAS A LACKLUSTER AFFAIR, ACCORDING TO REPORTS, WITH A DISCIPLINED GROUP FOLLOWING THE LEADERSHIP ON ALL ISSUES. THE MAIN LEADERSHIP WAS REELECTED WITH LITTLE OPPOSITION.

2. THE SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT, RUAIRI O BRADAIGH, EMPHASIZED POLITICAL RATHER THAN MILITARY ACTION, LEADING SOME TO SPECULATE THAT A QUOTE CEASE FIRE UNQUOTE FROM THE PROVISIONAL IRA MIGHT BE IN THE OFFING. HOWEVER, OTHERS POINT OUT THAT O BRADAIGH NORMALLY EMPHASIZES POLITICAL ACTION IN ORDER TO BOLSTER THE FICTION OF THE SEPARATION BETWEEN THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY PROVISIONALS. THE MAIN POINT OF O BRADAIGH'S SPEECH WAS A DISTRIBE AGAINST CONTINUED IRISH PARTICIPATION IN THE E.C., WHICH IS QUOTE IMMORAL AND WRONG UNQUOTE. HE PLEDGED SINN FEIN TO AN ALL-OUT ANTI-EC EFFORT IN QUOTE ALL OF IRELAND UNQUOTE DURING NEXT YEAR'S EC PARLIAMENTARY

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ELECTIONS. THE ONLY MENTION OF THE US, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, WAS WHEN O BRADAIGH WELCOMED PRESIDENT CARTER'S REFERENCES TO IRELAND BUT WARNED AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT BY AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIONS TO FILL THE QUOTE POWER VACUUM UNQUOTE LEFT IN IRELAND WHEN BRITAIN WAS FORCED TO LEAVE. O BRADAIGH ALSO INCLUDED IN HIS SPEECH AN ATTACK ON THE PEACE MOVEMENT AS QUOTE AN INSTRUMENT

OF BRITISH POLICY UNQUOTE.

3. THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS WERE ELECTED:

PRESIDENT - RUAIRI O BRADAIGH
VICE PRESIDENT - DAITHI O CONAILL
VICE PRESIDENT - JOE CAHILL
SECRETARY - WALTER LYNCH
SECRETARY - NIALL FAGAN
TREASURER - TONY RUANE
TREASURER - CHARLIE MCGLADE
DIRECTOR OF
PUBLICITY - SEAN O BRADAIGH
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL - GERRY ADAMS, BELFAST
RICHARD BEHAL, KILKENNY
JIMMY DRUMM, BELFAST
BRENDAN MAGILL, DUBLIN
JOHN JOE MCGIRL, LEITRIM
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL - AINDREAS O CEALLACHAIN, DUBLIN
JOE O'NEILL, BUNDORAN
GEORGE STAGG, MEATH
TWO FURTHER MEMBERS WILL BE ELECTED AT A LATER DATE.

4. COMMENT: IT SEEMS THAT O BRADAIGH IS STILL FIRMLY
IN CHARGE OF SINN FEIN. DAITHI O CONAILL, RECENTLY
RELEASED FROM PRISON, WAS GIVEN A STANDING OVATION AND
IS NOW RECOGNISED AS RESUMING THE NUMBER 2 POSITION.
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THERE WERE NO NEW POLICY DIRECTIONS THAT WE COULD DETECT.
THE ANTI-EC POSITION IS A LONG-STANDING ONE, AND REMAINS
SOMETHING OF AN EMBARRASSMENT TO OTHER, MORE MODERATE,
OPPONENTS OF EC MEMBERSHIP. ALLIANCE WITH PROVISIONAL
SINN FEIN PUTS ONE BEYOND THE PALE IN IRELAND. OF
O BRADAIGH'S STATEMENTS ON THE EC, THE IRISH TIMES
COMMENTED:

QUOTE TO TAKE THIS COUNTRY OUT OF THE EEC IS ONE OF THE
AIMS OF SINN FEIN (PROVISIONALS), ACCORDING TO THE ADDRESS
OF THEIR PRESIDENT AT THEIR ANNUAL ARD FHEIS. THEY SHOULD
TELL THAT TO THE FARMERS. SO SHOULD OTHER INTERESTS WHOSE
AIMS TALLY WITH THOSE OF SINN FEIN. THIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN
TRANSFORMED, AS FAR AS THE RURAL AREAS ARE CONCERNED, AS
IT HAS NOT BEEN IN THE LIVES OF ANYONE NOW LIVING. THROUGH-
OUT OUR HISTORY THERE HAVE BEEN RECURRING PERIODS OF
AGRICULTURAL REVIVAL - SAY DURING THE NAPOLEONIC WARS - TO
BE FOLLOWED INEVITABLY BY A SLUMP. BUT THERE ARE
SLUMPS AND SLUMPS. IF WHAT WE ARE GOING THROUGH NOW IS
ONE, MANY OF OUR ANCESTORS WOULD HAVE BEEN GLAD TO LIVE
THROUGH IT AND WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THEMSELVES IN HIGH
PROSPERITY. A LARGE PROPORTION OF OUR PEOPLE STILL
LIVE ON THE LAND AND, APART FROM THEM, MANY, MANY OTHERS

LIVE ON THE RESULT OF THEIR LABOUR. SO, TO PULL OUT
OF THE EEC WOULD IMMEDIATELY POSE AN ECONOMIC QUESTION
IMMENSELY GREATER THAN ANY WE FACE TODAY. UNQUOTE
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